

Amendment and Response
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REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the captioned application in view of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 35, 37-40, 42-47, 49-59, 69, 70, 75-84, 109 and 110 remain for consideration.

Independent claim 35 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter set forth in claim 41. Accordingly, claim 41 has been cancelled.

Claim 43 has been amended to change the dependency from previously cancelled claim 41 to present claim 42.

Claim 44 has been amended to change the dependency from claim 42 to claim 43.

Claim 53 has been amended to change the dependency from previously cancelled claim 48 to present claim 47.

Independent claim 69 was amended to incorporate the subject matter set forth in claims 73 and 74. Accordingly, claims 73 and 74 have been cancelled.

Claim 71 has been cancelled.

Claim 75 was amended to change the dependency from previously cancelled claim 74 to present claim 69.

Claim Rejections

Relying on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or, in the alternative, 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner rejected claims 35, 37-40, 42, 44-46, 69-72, 76-84, 109 and 110 as anticipated by or obvious in view of Gaynor et al. (hereafter Gaynor). The Examiner indicated that claims 41, 43, and 73-75 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 41 has been incorporated into independent claim 35. In view of the amendment, it is submitted that all claims dependent from amended claim 35 should also be found allowable. In addition, the subject matter of claims 73 and 74 have been incorporated into independent claim 69. It is submitted that all claims dependent from amended claim 69 (including claim 74) should be deemed allowable in view of this amendment.

Applicants note that the Examiner has allowed claims 47 and 49-58 on the record.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims are patentable over the Gaynor disclosure. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance with respect to the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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